Popularity of Indian System of Medicines in Foreign Countries

3411. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increasing popularity of Indian system of medicines in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any demand for the Indian scientists / Doctors (Ayurved) in the foreign countries;

(d) if so, the names of such countries; and

(e) what facilities Government are providing/propose to provide to such doctors/scientists who are willing to go to foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (e) There is an upsurge of interest the world over in Traditional Systems of Medicine in general including Indian Systems of Medicine. Foreign Scientists/ Doctors have been visiting institutions of Indian Systems of Medicine and Ayurvedic Vaids have been visiting foreign countries. Even courses in Ayurveda have been provided for foreigners at Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Such exchanges are encouraged by way of arranging International Conferences/Exhibitions/ Fellowships/Seminars/Training Courses.

AIDS Test—HIV Accudot

3412. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a simple AIDS test called 'HIV Accudot to give 99.8 per cent correct results about the presence and otherwise of HIV-1 and HIV-2 anti-bodies in a patient at a low cost has been devised by two USA based Indians as reported in the Tribune of Novermber 23, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken/ proposed to be taken to promote the use of this method for screening the high risk groups through Government and non-Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The Government is aware of the Press reports that the US based Indian scientists have developed a HIV-1&2 screening test.

(b) No details are available with the Government.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.